The National Tribune.

TO BENEFIT ALL

The National Tribune's plan to aid widows is intended to benefit all com-

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1904.

VOL. XXIII-NO. 48.-WHOLE NO. 1203.

BATTLE OF ATLANTA.

The Terrible Struggle of July 22, 1864—Hood's Desperate Attempt to Turn Sherman's Left, and Drive Him Back from Atlanta.

Hood opened an attack upon Sherman's right, commanded by Gen. Thomas. The attack was a failure, and resulted in a great defeat to Hood's army and the dis-

arrangement of all his plans.

On the evening of the 21st of July Gen.
Sherman's army had closed up to within two miles of Atlanta, and on that day Force's Brigade of Leggett's Division of Blair's Seventeenth Corps carried a prominent hill known as Bald or Leggett's Hill, that gave us a clear view of Atlanta, and placed that city within range of our guns.

Were Joined by the Georgia Militia under Gen. Smith, extending down the line in front of the Army of Ohio and Cumberland Cumberland: Sweeney's Divisions, with bayonets fixed, Sweeney's Divisions, with bayonets fixed, Sweeney's Divisions, with bayonets fixed, and held the lines in front of the Army of the Cumberland. The Sixteenth Corps fought in the open ground; the Fifteenth and Seventeenth behind intrenchments.

Where I stood, just at the rear of the Sixteenth Corps was unbounded. Gen. Dodge held the key to the position.

Bodge, with portions of Fuller's and Sweeney's Divisions, with bayonets fixed, Sweeney's Divisions, with portions of Fuller's and Sweeney's Divisions, with particular to the works and held the lines in front of the Army of the Cumberland. The Sixteenth Corps and determined bravery of the Sixteenth Corps was unbounded. Gen. Division of the Army of Ohio and Cumberland. The Sixteenth Corps were provided the works and held the lines in front of the Army of the Army of the Cumberland. The Sixteenth Corps was unbounded. Sixteenth Corps was unbounded. Sixteenth Corps given was placed that city within range of our guns. Sixteenth Corps, I could see the entire line of that corps, and unless the of that corps, and could look up and see the the rebel army would have been in the rear swing of our left was stopped it would dangerously interfere with Hood's communications towards the south. Hood fully appreciated this, and determined upon his celebrated attack in the rear of Gen. Sherman's army. On the 22d of July the Army of the Ten-

nessee was occupying the rebel intrenchments, its right resting very near the How-ard House, south of the Augusta Railroad, thence to Leggett's Hill, which had been carried by Force's assault on the evening of the 21st. From this hill Giles A. Smith's Division of the Seventeenth Corps stretched out southward on a road that occupied this ridge, with a weak flank in air. To strengthen this flank, by order of Gen. Mc Pherson I sent on the evening of the 21st one brigade of Fuller's Division, the other being left at Decatur to protect our parked trains. Fuller camped his brigade about half a mile in the rear of the extreme left and at right angles to Blair's lines, and commanding the open ground and valley of the forks of Sugar Creek, a position that proved very strong in the battle. Fuller did not go into line; simply bivouacked, ready to respond to any call. On the morning of the 22d of July Gen.

McPherson called at my headquarters, and gave me verbal orders in relation to the movement of the Second (Sweeney's) Divi-sion of my (the Sixteenth) Corps, which had been crowded out of the line by the contraction of our lines as we neared At-lanta, and told me that I was to take position on the left of the line that Blair had been instructed to occupy and intrench that morning, and cautioned me about protecting my flank very strongly. McPher son evidently thought that there would be trouble on that flank, for he rode out to examine it himself.

I moved Sweeney in the rear of our army, on the road leading from the Augusta Railway, down the east branch of Sugar Creek to near where it forks. Then turnof Sugar Creek just back where Fuller was camped, and passed up through a strip of woods and through Blair's lines near where his left was refused. Up this road Sweeney marched until he reached Fuller, when he halted, waiting until the line I had selected on Blair's proposed new left could be intrenched, so that at mid-day, July 22, the position of the Army of the Tennessee teenth across and north of the Augusta Railway facing Atlanta, the balance of the Fifteenth and all of the Seventeenth Corps behind intrenchments running south gentle slope and clear valley facing Atrear the country was heavily wooded. The enemy, therefore, was enabled, under cover

HOOD'S ABLE PLANS.

On the night of July 21 Hood had trans-Wheeler's Cavalry to our rear, going around our left flank, Wheeler attacking Sprague's Brigade, Sixteenth Corps, at Decatur, where our trains were parked. At day-light Stewart's and Cheatham's Corps and the Georgia militia were withdrawn closer simultaneously with Hardee, the plan thus involving the destroying of the Army of the Tennessee by attacking it in rear and front and the capturing of all its trains corralled at Decatur. Hardee's was the largest corps in Hood's army, and according to Hood there were thus to move upon the Army of the Tennessee about 40,000

and the front line of the Fifteenth and time of Gen. McPherson's death. and the front line of the Fifteenth and time of Gen. McPherson sugarth.

Seventeenth Corps. He says he was asGen. McPherson could not have left his force attacked and surprised was fighting. They were out of service; they had written tonished to see the attack come on Blair's left instead of his rear, and charges his defeat to that fact; but Hardee when he swung his right and came out in the open found the Sixteenth Corps in line in the form of his brigade to confront them, rear of our army, and he was as much sur- portion of his brigade to confront them, to learn. The fact that this small force, sister has had untold trouble to obtain prised to find us there as our army was at and pushing promptly to the attack capthe sudden attack in our rear. The drivitured their skirmish line and drove back a perfectly open field, with this enormously a perfectly open field, with this enormously a perfectly open field, with this enormously are constituted to the control of the c ing back by the Sixteenth Corps of Har-dee's made his corps drift to the left and some of these prisoners we found McPheragainst Blair, not only to Blair's left but son's papers, field-glass, etc., which coninto his rear, so that what Hood declares veyed to me the first knowledge I had of was the cause of his failure was not Hardee's fault, as his attacks on the Sixteenth Corps were evidently determined and fierce enough to relieve him from all blame in the most knowledge I had on his death, or, rather, as I then supposed, of his capture by the enemy, and seeing that the papers were important I sent them by my Chief of Staff with all haste the papers were important I sent them by my Chief of Staff with all haste the papers were important I sent them by my Chief of Staff with all haste the papers were the

Historians and others who have written first dispatch that the attack was at 11 a. cer present with him at that critical mother number in their front, should have men forward; the fire on their flanks and m. and on Blair's Corps, and also that Gen.
McPherson was killed about 11 a. m. The fact is, Blair was not attacked until half an hour after the attack upon the Sixteenth Corps, and McPherson fell at about 10 corps army.

ment.

"The General and myself," said Strong, "accompanied only by our erderlies, rode on and took positions on the right of 11 say that in all my experience in life, will two forces struck and the Sixteenth 11 corps army. The Confederate assaults of Hood's army. m. and on Blair's Corps. and also that Gen. ment. 2 p. m. Gen. Sherman was at the Howard House, which was miles away from the scene of Hardee's attack in the rear, and Sweeney were formed in a single line of

mental colors waved and fluttered in advance of the lines, and not a shot was fired by the rebel infantry, although the move-

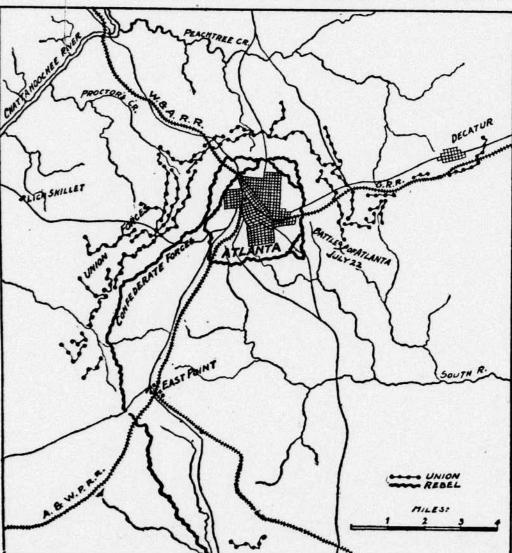
our troops with solid shot and shell, firing Corps to form new lines, utilizing the old

Gen. Blair in his official report of the

THE SIXTEENTH CORPS' PROUD RECORD.

and it seems to me to be impossible to draw

anxious coments.



SKETCH OF BATTLE OF ATLANTA

Knowing Gen. McPherson was some two | the Army of the Tennessee would have been miles away, I sent a staff officer to Gen. critical, although, without doubt, the re-Giles A. Smith, requesting him to refuse his sult of the battle would have been in our left and protect the gap between the Seven-teenth Corps and my right, which he sent word he would do. Later, as the battle progressed, and I saw no movement on the of the railway along a gentle ridge with a part of Gen. Smith, I sent another officer gentle slope and clear valley facing At. to inform him that the enemy were passing battle says: lanta in front, and another clear valley in my right flank, which was nearly opposite lanta in front, and another clear valley in the rear. The Sixteenth Corps was resting on the road described, entirely in the rear of the Seventeenth and Fifteenth Corps and facing from Atlanta. To the left and left rear the country was heavily wooded. The reaching Smith, that he was just becoming of the attack, and although it does not beof the forest, to approach close to the rear hold his line, with a promise that other duct of the officers and men of that corps, troops would be thrown into the gap.

MCPHERSON'S DEATH. My second messenger, Lieut. Sheffly, returning over the road upon which McPherson was a few minutes later shot dead, met the General on the road with a very few attendants, turned to warn him of his dangerous position, assuring him that the enemy held the woods and were advancwas for Hardee to form entirely in the brush in different directions. My Aid berear of the Army of the Tennessee, but came separated from the General and the visions were widely scattered; on the At-Hardee claims that he met Hood on the rest of the party, and was knocked from his lanta field only 10 regiments and two bat- the 4th Iowa Inf. taking a conspicuous night of the 21st; that he was so late in horse by coming in contact with a tree, and moving his corps that they changed the lay for some time in an unconscious condimoving his corps that they changed the plan of attack so that his left was to strike the Seventeenth Corps. He was to sufficiently recovered he returned on foot to me, having lost his horse and equip-to me, having after his fall. His watch, crushed by con-Hood stood in one of the batteries of tact with the tree, was stopped at two Atlanta, where he could see Blair's left minutes past 2 o'clock, which fixed the

to Gen. Sherman. Gen. McPherson, it seems, had just witof the battle of Atlanta have been misled by being governed in their data by the first of the charging columns of the battle of the same and as probably conveying his own of the conveying his own of the conveying his own or the conveying his own. dently misinformed, as he afterwards corrected his dispatches. He stated in the language of Gen. Strong, the only staff offi-

House, which was miles away from the scene of Hardee's attack in the rear, and evidently did not at first comprehend the the serious results that would have been the serious results that would have been effected had the attack succeeded.

The battle began within 15 or 20 minutes of 12 o'clock (noon) and lasted until midnight, and covered the ground from the Howard House, along the entire front of the Fifteenth (Logan's) Corps, the Sevent the Fifteenth (Blair's), and on the front of the Sixteenth Corps, and on to Decatur, where Sprague's Brigade of the Sixteenth Corps of the sum corps, was engaged at the same within hearing, but on a different and the same corps, was engaged at the same within hearing, but on a different and sum within 15 or 20 minutes of 12 o'clock (noon) and lasted until midnight, and covered the ground from the Howard House, along the entire front of the Sixteenth Corps, the Sevent of the army, and on the front of the Sixteenth Corps, and on the front of the Sixteenth Corps of the army, and on the front of the destructive fire from the teach of the streeth, which was formed in the rear of the army, and on to Decatur, where Sprague's Brigade of the Sixteenth Corps of the sevent content and defeated Wheeler's Cavalry. A distance of about seven miles.

STRENGTH OF THE COMBATANTS.

The Army of the Tennessee had present on that day at Atlanta and Decatur about 21,000 of these wards and at the facing for a tent of the decent of the cover of the woods.

A GRAND AND IMPRESSIVE SIGHT.

The Seene at this time was grand and in the right of the Sixteenth Corps, and 7,000 in the Sixteenth Corps, and 7,000 in the Sixteenth Corps fallow, the content and the right of the Sixteenth Corps from the seened to us that every mounted officer of the attacking column was of the centh Corps, and 7,000 in the Sixteenth Corps, and 7,000 in the Sixteenth Corps, and 7,000 in the Sixteenth Corps fallow and population of the Sixteenth Corps in the Seventeenth; about 21,000 of these warring and the first of the Eight and the

By Maj.-Gen, GRENVILLE M. DODGE, Commander, Sixteenth Corps.

By Maj.-Gen, GRENVILLE M. DODGE, Commander, Sixteenth Corps.

On the 17th day of July, 1864, Gen. John B. Hood relieved Gen. Joseph E. Johnston in command of the Confederate divisions of Hardee's Corps, Hardee's left, Rarmy in front of Atlanta, and on the 20th Hood opened an attack upon Sherman's right, commanded by Gen. Thomas. The hand-to-hand conflict across the trenches occupied by Smith, the troops using the bayonet freely and the officers their swords. This attack failed; it was no doubt timed to occur at the same time that Cheatham's lorps attacked from the Atlanta front, the key to the position of that portion of the Army of the Tennessee. Gen. Giles A.
Smith's Division had to give up the works

A better field could not be selected for

> whole attack was a failure, when those who were on the outside of the works finally surrendered to us. Their attack at this angle was a determined and resolute the surrendered to us. Their attack at this angle was a determined and resolute the surrendered to us. one, advancing up to our breastworks on the crest of the hill, planting their flag brought together from sections as remote side by side with ours, and fighting hand to from one another as Connecticut and Texas. hand until it grew so dark that nothing The intermingling of citizen soldiers from could be seen but the flash of the guns each will undoubtedly be very fruitful in from the opposite side of the works. The the familiarity, acquaintance, and higher ground covered by these attacks was literally strewn with the dead of both sides. The loss of Blair's Corps was 1.801 killed, wounded and missing. Blair's left struck in the rear flank, and front gave away slowly, gradually, fighting for every inch of ground until the side of ground until the same ideas, aspirations, ideals, and high standards of patriotism.
>
> The Plains of Manassas are an ideal of ground until the same ideas, aspirations, ideals, and high standards of patriotism. of ground, until their left was opposite the manuvering ground. They are large enough

It would be difficult in all the annals of war to find a parallel to the fighting of the Seventeenth Corps, first from one side of its works, and then from the other, one incident of which was that of Col. Belknap, of the Blue Ridge, and many gaps, affording the color of the Blue Ridge, and many gaps, affording the color of the Blue Ridge, and many gaps, affording the color of the Blue Ridge, and many gaps, affording the color of the Blue Ridge, and many gaps, affording the color of the Blue Ridge, and many gaps, affording the color of the Blue Ridge, and many gaps, affording the color of the Blue Ridge, and many gaps, affording the color of the Blue Ridge, and many gaps. of the Union side, reaching over the works, seizing the Colonel of the 45th Ala., and lrawing him over the breastworks, making im a prisoner of war.

came forward in solid masses, meeting no success until they slipped through the rear

burn's Division of the Fifteenth Corps became partially panic stricken, and fell back, giving up the intrenchments for the whole front of this division, the enemy capturing the celebrated DeGress Battery of 20-pounders and two guns in advance of our lines. The officers of Lightburn's Division rallied it in the line of intrenchments just in the rear where they had moved from in the

Gen. Logan was then in command of the Army of the Tennessee. He rode over to where I was, and I sent Mercer's Brigade of the Second Divsion under the guidance of Maj. Edward Jonas, my A. D. C., to the aid of the Fifteenth Corps. Of the performance of that brigade on "I witnessed the first furious assault

that occasion I quote the words of that staff officer, Maj. Jonas: MERCER'S BRIGADE.

"I conducted Mercer's Brigade to the

point where needed; arrived at the railroad, he at once deployed and charged, all hend better the meaning of the operations duct of the officers and men of that corps, still I can not refrain from expressing my admiration for the manner in which the Sixteenth Corps met and repulsed the repeated and persistent attacks of the enemy."

Foad, he at once deployed and charged, and men of the Fifteenth Corps at hand join-ing with him. Mercer's Brigade recaptured the works and the guns. Old Col., M. was slightly wounded, and his celebrated horse, "Billy," killed. By your direction I said to Gen. Morgan L. Smith (temportations) which are to be executed.

THE IMPORTANCE of the Plains of Manassas during the war of the rebellion consisted in their being the terraine upon which to defend both the The Sixteenth Corps has a record in that brigade at the earliest practicable moment They made the approach by which the rebels threatened Washington and by which battle which we seldom see in the annals of war. It met the shock of battle and sault on our own line, and, after saying mond. They covered the approach to the ing. The General, paying no heed to his warning and moving on my Aid turned and followed him. They had Hill. It fought on four parts of the field, bridgade (Mercer's) has done magnificent. proceeded but a short distance into the woods when a sharp command, "Halt!" and everywhere with equal success; it lost no gun that it took into the engagement, and its losses were almost entirely in killed cers—Capt. Boyd, I think—in trying his was heard from the skirmish line of the and its losses were almost enterely in kined cers—capt. Boyd, I think in the rebels. Without heeding the command, Gen. and wounded—the missing having been skill as an artillerist, cracked one of the McPherson and his party wheeled their captured at Decatur through getting recaptured guns. At the same moment of horses, and at that moment a heavy volley was poured in, killing McPherson and so frightening the horses that they became was there present in the Sixteenth Corps of Gen. Sherman, attacked the Confedergades each, and at this time these two di- and Williamson's Brigade joined Mercer's

teries were present, three entire brigades part. desperate emergency could swell them, im- written and spoken all over the land in be pelled by the motive of the preconcerted half of the honor, of the bravery of the surprise, and orders from their commander soldier, but where is the word spoken or as at all hazards to sweep over any and all written that can say more for the soldier it obstructions; while, on the other hand, the than the action of these men on that field? without orders, guided only by the exigency that they were coming home, and their eyes D a perfectly open field, with this enormously cause the soldier's time had expired; he superior force leaping upon them from the was mustered out, waiting to go home, and St cover of dense woods, was able to hold its was not known on the records; but on that ground and drive its assailants, pell-mell, day he fought on three different parts of back to the cover of the woods again, proves

NO IMPRESSION ON THE LINE. manded the Confederate division that broke Suppose the Sixteenth Corps, with less through our line, told me that after breakthan 5,000 men, seeing at least three times ing through it was impossible to force his to within 100 to 300 feet of us, where our fire would drive them back, in spite of the

THE HISTORIC PLAINS OF MANASSAS.

counters of Armed Myriads.

Opening of the War at Buil Run Followed by Three Years of Marches, Manuvers and Terrible Encounters.

The second s

tract general attention to a section which at one time was of the most supreme inter-est to the people of the United States. For thought of the National Government was hights around Harper's Ferry and the three years the Plains of Manassas were to try to make its Capital secure. which Leggett met. The brunt of Cheat-ham's attack was against Leggett's Hill, the scene of mighty movements and awful ington is entirely surrounded by Mary-battle by great armies, and the news was land and Virginia, and therefore in the

Hill being the apex of the formation; and here, for three quarters of an hour, more desperate fighting was done around this position than I can describe. Up to midnight the enemy occupied one side of the works while we occupied the other, neither side giving way until Hood say that the sembled though only 20 000 per side of the country in the science of war. It is the first time that the Government has attempted to do a thing like this, which is considered vitally necessary in this era of side of the sembled though only 20 000 per side. side giving way until Hood saw that the sembled, though only 30,000 men, is very

right flank of the Sixteenth Corps: then they halted, and held the enemy, refusing to give another inch.

NO PARALLEL IN WAR.

Indicating ground. They are large enough to admit all of the most varied movements of great bodies of men, and are sufficiently diversified in character to bring out the most varied features of strategy and tactics.

On the west is the range of the Bull ing widest opportunities for successful flanking movements.

The first great feature south of Wash-About 4 p. m. Cheatham's Corps was ordered by Hood to again attack. They directed their assault this time to the front creeks, unite to form the Occoquan River, miles below Washington, and with their high, steep banks make a strong line of of the Fifteenth Corps by a deep cut used by the railway passing through our in-

> From 30 to 40 miles still farther south is the still stronger line of the Rappahannock, with its important tributary, the

This section-extending some 65 miles. or a little more, due south from Washing-ton-and extending from the Blue Ridge and the Shenandoah Valley eastward to the Potomac-with its breadth cut clear across by the Rappahannock and Occoquan and their tributaries-was the theater of operations of the two great Armies of the Potomac and Northern Virginia from the pling begun in the Wilderness when the

war was three years old. repeated for the instruction of the troops army. and their commanders, and consequently a review of some of the principal events will be useful and timely in order to compre-

arily in command of the Fifteenth Corps): rival Capitals-Washington and Richmond.

The grand manuvers on the plains of Shenandoah Valley, which was the high-Manassas, which begin in a few days, at-

land and Virginia, and therefore in the heart of what was more or less an enemy's country. This was an extremely bad situation for a National Capital to be in, and der the law they could be called out but for Smith's Division had to give up the works they occupied and fall into line at right the first of the grand manuvers and drills it was of importance to get in troops at they occupied and fall into line at right the first of the grand manuvers and drills it was of importance to get in troops at they occupied and fall into line at right the first of the grand manuvers and drills in once to prevent its capture by a rush, such angles with Leggett's Division, Leggett's which are intended for the instruction of once to prevent its capture by a rush, such to expire after the middle of July. A

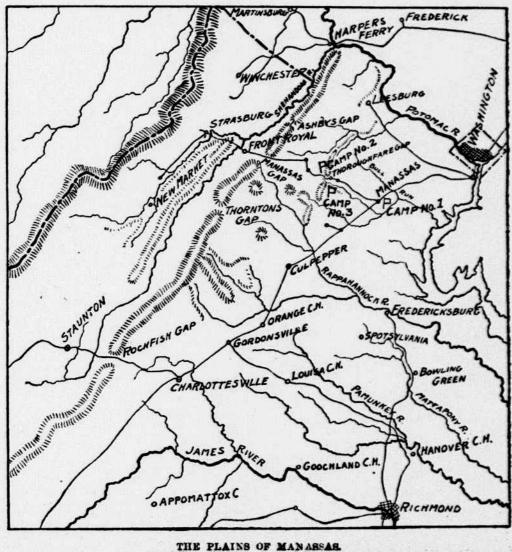
back to Winchester, where they could at once oppose any farther advance of the Union troops, be ready to attack the latter if they were diminished in strength, and, if successful, could march directly on and ment was covered by a heavy and well-directed fire from artillery which was posted in the woods and on higher ground, and captured a portion of two regiments and which enabled the guns to bear upon of his command, and forced the Seventeenth and Seventeenth and captured a portion of two regiments of his command, and forced the Seventeenth and Seventeenth and captured a portion of two regiments of his command, and forced the Seventeenth and Seventeenth and captured a portion of two regiments of his command, and forced the Seventeenth and sistance of their comrades at Manassas.

FIRST MOVEMENTS.

The troops gathered in Washington were mmediately pushed out to occupy Arling-Alexandria, during which operation Col. Ellsworth was killed.

This gave the Union troops possession of to come to the rear—the least defensible the south side of the Potomac in an irregu-side—of the National Capital. ground immediately around Fort Monroe

three months, and their time would begin large portion of them were militia companies, the members of which had responded to the call at considerable personal oss and inconvenience. Their natural desire was to do something decisive before



ability and a consummate soldiership, fell to make a sweeping assertion, that all of

The rebels had taken up strong positions returning home, and their friends and the at Harper's Ferry, the entrance to the of Manassas, 32 miles from Washington, where the only railroad leading south from gorges in the rocks until it falls into the Potomac. Except in one or two places, an

are deep, and their banks easy to defend. that they had to act independently. aken Harper's Ferry, but the rebels, under willingly acquiesced in their overthrow. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, a man of great Before going any further it is necessary

public generally were equally desirous.

The humiliation of the surrender of Fort Baltimore, and a thousand and one conthe Capital crosses Bull Run.

This was a strong line of defense, bestung the people's hearts, and they burned tumelious acts by the audacious rebels beginning of the war, until the two forged over toward the James in the bloody grapinto the Occoquan, runs through deep solent fomenters of treason, restore the Government's prestige, and bring about a In the manuvers a great many of the army could not pass it, and thus it effectu- to business. No one then comprehended movements of those eventful days will be ally guarded the right flank of the rebellion. It who were committed to the rebellion. It To the westward, or the left of the rebel was believed, and no doubt was true, that position, the country is difficult, the valleys a quick, sharp blow by the Government would bring the Southern people to their Moreover, a branch of the railroad starts senses and stop the fierce nonsense of civil rom there and runs to the Shenandoah war. Undoubtedly this would have been Valley, affording an easy connection be- the case had the Government been as sure tween the two bodies of troops, so that of itself as it is to-day. The mass of the they could mutually assist one another by Southern people did not want to go to short line of communication, while the war and if the comparatively small number inion armies were so widely separated of men who were dragging that section into rebellion had met with a sharp, crushing The Union troops had advanced and defeat, the Southern people would have

Practical Results Already:

Although The National Tribune's plan to aid widows was first announced only a few unmanageable and plunged into the under-unmanageable and plunged into the under-more than two small divisions of three bri-ates occupying our intrenchments in flank. weeks since, it is already of practical, almost daily, assistance to widows. It is the plain in recapturing our line and the batteries— duty of every married comrade to attend to this matter.

Preliminary Report

	This report is short and can be easily written out on letter or legal cap paper. This course avoids cutting the paper. If uncertains of the dates, leave them blank. Dates of marriage, ages, etc., are more important than dates of service. When report is ready, mail	
to some of the dates, leave them blank. to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Wash	Dates of marriage, ages, etc., are more important than dates of service. When report is ready, mai	
ate	(Write above number and street, or R. F. D. No., if any.)	
	(Write above number and street, or R. F. D. No., if any.)	
Soldier's Name	Present P. O.	
ate	I was in the service from day of, 186, to	
eday of	, 186, as a(Give rank, also company and regiment.)	
	, on theday	
, 186	. Are you a pensioner? At what rate? \$per month	
Were you pensioned under t	he old law or the new? (The new law is the act of June 27, 1890.)	
What wounds, diseases or di	sabilities, if any, are written on your pension certificate?	
	(Give wife's name before marriage.)	
(Give name of clergyman o	person officiating.)	
t marriage my age was	Her age was	
	of this marriage?	
ere either of you previously m	nrried?	
a prisoner of war, state for i		